

The Director  
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

12/20/78

Dear President Bowen:

Since its inception, the Central Intelligence Agency has sought to maintain effective relationships with scholars and academic institutions throughout the United States. These relationships have been of inestimable value to the intelligence community and ultimately, to the foreign policymakers it serves.

In the wake of considerable public criticism over the last several years, however, the Agency has had difficulty in maintaining these open and mutually beneficial relationships. I would like to ask your help and advice in determining how best to restore a useful but proper connection between academia and the world of intelligence.

Clearly there are limits beyond which we in the intelligence profession should not go in dealing with members of the academic community. I do have very express rules with respect to that today, but how we are operating within these rules is not always clear to others. Today there are also many new opportunities to use unclassified information derived through the collection of intelligence for the benefit of academic research. I do not believe that we have the proper mechanism today to ensure the adequate provisions of such information to academic institutions.

Accordingly, I would like to ask you to join with me and several other university presidents and leaders of the American academic community on 15 February 1979 for a day here at the Central Intelligence Agency. The objective would be to have a free-flowing exchange of ideas on how to reestablish the academic-intelligence relationship on a sound and proper basis for mutual advantage. This will be a quiet, private meeting of ten or perhaps twelve of us, during which we will take the opportunity of asking you to visit our CIA facilities and to meet with a variety of Agency officers representing diverse interests and disciplines. My hope would be that in your spending a day with us, our relationship might improve to our mutual benefit, taking into full account the problems of the past and the attitudes of the present.

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I would be most grateful if you could take the time to do this. I have asked [REDACTED] of my Academic Relations Staff to be available to discuss my invitation further with you, and to make arrangements, if as I hope, you will be able to accept.

Yours sincerely,



STANSFIELD TURNER

Dr. William G. Bowen, President  
Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Letters to:	Dr. William G. Bowen	Princeton University
	Dr. Angelo B. Giamatti	Yale University
	Dr. Marvin L. Goldberger	California Institute of Technology
	Dr. Hanna H. Gray	University of Chicago
	Dr. William W. Hagerty	Drexel University
	Dr. Robert W. MacVicar	Oregon State University
	Dr. Frank Newman	University of Rhode Island
	Rev. John P. Raynor, S.J.	Marquette University
	Dr. Joab L. Thomas	North Carolina State University
	Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.	State University of New York

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